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Intrigue In Caribbean And U.S. Foreign Policy

A CERTAIN EVIL

By David Kraslow and Robert Boyd (Little, Brown)
Reviewed by RALPH E. HONE (Los Angeles Times)

The theory and practice of ethics in international relations never quite match, but the reach of a democratic government should exceed its grasp. It is Socrates (in Plato's "Apology") who furnishes the theme and title for David Kraslow and Robert Boyd in their novel about U. S. foreign policy in the Caribbean; "I will never fear or avoid a possible good rather than a certain evil."

The U. S. government wishes to unseat the tyrant without bloodshed and without admission of complicity. The hero of the story is a Washington correspondent, Joe Warrick. The time is roughly 10 years after the Bay of Pigs disaster, so that the CIA fiasco and Fidel Castro's Communistic dictatorship create an atmosphere of apprehension and urgency.

The authors have done well to concentrate on values in this story. They are experienced enough to know that ap-

parent motives may not be real motives and they are concerned that democracy shall not be a gloss for something sinister.

Thus they hold up for scrutiny such practices as privileged "leaking" of news by government officials, governmental official immunity and serving of private interests, political blackmail. Thus "A. Certain Evil" is not just another cloak-and-dagger tale in which the ideological stakes are crisply clear-cut and incontrovertible. It is a disturbingly provocative book.

But the book loses no suspense thereby. Personalities and incidents from the broad tapestry of foreign policy weave a very exciting pattern. The climax of the story is structured with the tension and terseness of on-the-spot reporting.

"A Certain Evil" will be widely discussed and remembered.